

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claims 1, 14, 23 and 37 as indicated below (material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets []):

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A consumable component replenishment and maintenance assistance system for a centralized network environment, comprising:

a computer network;

a plurality of computer peripheral devices within the network;

a personal computer within the network and having a user interface usable by a maintainer to maintain operation of at least one computer peripheral device of the plurality; and

a server within the network and having a consumable component consolidation program operative to monitor the plurality of computer peripheral devices to identify at least a need to replenish a consumable component for each of the plurality of the computer peripheral devices, and to notify a maintainer of the identified need by rendering instructions that are sent to the maintainer at the personal computer;

wherein the consolidation program ~~being~~ **is** operative to deliver to the maintainer an e-mail that consolidates the need to replenish the consumable

component for a select group of computer peripheral devices from among the plurality of the computer peripheral devices when two or more computer peripheral devices from the select group of computer peripheral devices have the need to replenish the consumable component.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising another personal computer and an electronic communication link signal coupling the another personal computer with an external seller of a consumable component for one of the at least one peripheral devices.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising another personal computer, wherein the another personal computer is operative to monitor the at least one computer peripheral device to determine the state of a consumable for each of the at least one computer peripheral devices, and notify a user via the user interface of a need to replenish one or more consumables.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising another personal computer and another centralized server having a consumable re-order program including instructions to send a consumable re-order notification to a consumables purchaser at the another personal computer.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable component comprises a first consumable component, and further comprising a second consumable component unique from the first consumable component, wherein the consolidation program monitors the at least one computer peripheral device to identify when the second consumable component is near a threshold level requiring replenishment and/or maintenance and the consolidation program consolidates the

need to replenish and/or perform maintenance on the first and second consumable components.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the first consumable component resides on a first peripheral device, and the second consumable component resides on a second peripheral device.

8. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the first consumable component and the second consumable component reside on a common peripheral device.

9. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the server is operative to automatically notify a maintainer of the consolidated need to replenish and/or perform maintenance.

10. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the server is operative to automatically notify a purchaser of the consolidated need to replenish and/or perform maintenance.

11. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the consolidation program generates a warning message indicating that the second consumable component is near the threshold level.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the centralized server comprises an integrated web server operative to manage network peripheral devices.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the consolidation program includes a configurable threshold setting for the consumable component of the peripheral device, wherein a user of the centralized server selectively configures the threshold setting for the consumable component such that the identified need to replenish the consumable component is triggered by the threshold setting.

14. (Currently Amended) A consumable order assistance system for a computer peripheral device within a centralized network environment, comprising:

a personal computer having a user interface;

a plurality of computer peripheral devices, each computer peripheral device including a consumable;

a centralized server having a consumable re-order program including instructions to send a consumable re-order notification to a consumables purchaser at the personal computer, the instructions including a message that consolidates the need to order consumables for a select group of computer peripheral devices from among the plurality of computer peripheral devices when two or more computer peripheral devices from the select group of computer peripheral devices have the need to replenish consumables; and

a computer network interconnecting the personal computer, the plurality of computer peripheral devices, and the centralized server.

15. (Original) The consumable order assistance system of claim 14 further comprising an electronic communication link signal coupling the personal computer with a provider of the consumable for the peripheral device.

16. (Previously Presented) The consumable order assistance system of claim 14 wherein the centralized server includes a consumable component consolidation program for monitoring at least one of the plurality of computer peripheral devices to identify a need to replenish a consumable component and/or perform maintenance, consolidating the identified need to replenish the consumable component and/or perform maintenance for one or more of the at least one computer peripheral device in the network environment, and notifying a user of the consolidated, identified need by rendering instructions that are sent to the user at the personal computer.

17. (Original) The consumable order assistance system of claim 15 wherein the consumable re-order program automatically initiates an order for consumables in response to identifying a need to replenish a consumable component.

18. (Original) The consumable order assistance system of claim 14 wherein the electronic communication link comprises an e-mail system within the network environment, wherein a list of consumables that need replacement are sent to the personal computer via an e-mail message from the centralized server.

19. (Original) The consumable order assistance system of claim 18 wherein the e-mail message includes a hot link to a web site of consumable reseller information.

20. (Original) The consumable order assistance system of claim 19 wherein the hot link is to a web site that is configured to work with an internal customer order system.

21. (Original) The consumable order assistance system of claim 19 wherein the hot link is to a web site that is configured to work with an external web site including a list of providers of the consumable.

22. (Original) The consumable order assistance system of claim 18 wherein the e-mail system facilitates consumable ordering by a purchaser at the personal computer.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system which implements a program in which consumable components of computer peripheral devices in a centralized network system are replenished, the system comprising:

a monitoring system which identifies a need to replenish one or more consumable components for any one of a plurality of unique computer peripheral devices within the network system;

a notification system which notifies a user of the identified need to replenish components and/or perform maintenance;

a consumable order placement system which generates an order with a supplier of consumables in response to a user authorizing the order; and

a server having a consumable consolidation program for monitoring at least one computer peripheral device to identify a need to replenish consumables for the at least one computer peripheral device in the network environment, and notifying a maintainer of the consolidated, identified need by rendering instructions that are sent to the maintainer at the personal computer by forwarding an e-mail, the e-mail including a hot link to a web site of a consumable reseller, and the instructions including a message that consolidates the need to order consumables for a select group of computer peripheral devices from among the plurality of unique computer

Page 9 - AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED ...
Serial No. 09/733,472
HP Docket No. 10003234-1
KH Docket No. HPCC 3D8

peripheral devices when two or more computer peripheral devices from the select group of computer peripheral devices have the need to replenish consumables.

24. (Original) The computer-implemented system of claim 23 wherein the monitoring system comprises a server, a peripheral device having one or more consumable components, and a bi-directional communication link, wherein the server polls or sets up the peripheral device to perform an internal check and notifies the server when a need is determined to replenish one or more consumable components and/or perform maintenance.

25. (Original) The computer-implemented system of claim 23 wherein the notification system comprises a server, at least one client PC, and a communication link provided between the server and the at least one client PC, wherein the server generates and forwards a notification to a user at one of the at least one client PC.

26. (Original) The computer-implemented system of claim 23 wherein the consumable order placement system is resident on a central server within a network environment having a plurality of PCs.

27. (Original) The computer-implemented system of claim 23 wherein the consumable order placement system is resident on a PC within a network environment having a central server.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented system of claim 23 wherein the email comprises a notification that a printer needs replenishment of at least one consumable and/or maintenance.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented system of claim 23 wherein the email comprises a notification in the form of an itemized list that a plurality of computer peripheral devices each needs replenishment of at least one consumable and/or maintenance.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented system of claim 23 wherein the consumable consolidation program notifies the maintainer of the consolidated, identified need for a single computer peripheral device by consolidating the need for a plurality of unique consumable components and notifying the maintainer of the consolidated need for the single computer peripheral device.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented system of claim 23 wherein the server comprises a centralized server communicating with the at least one computer peripheral device and further operative to consolidate the identified need to replenish one or more consumable components and/or perform maintenance for one or more of the computer peripheral devices.

34. (Original) The computer-implemented system of claim 23 wherein the notification system comprises an embedded web server within a computer peripheral device and a centralized server communicating with the computer peripheral device.

35. (Original) The computer-implemented system of claim 23 wherein the notification system comprises a Legacy computer peripheral device and a centralized server provided within the network, wherein the centralized server periodically polls the Legacy device to obtain a status of the Legacy device relating to status of a consumable component and/or a need to perform maintenance on the Legacy device.

36. (Original) The computer-implemented system of claim 23 wherein the consumable order placement system comprises a centralized server provided within the network and communicating with a provider of consumables via the Internet.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for replenishing consumable components of at least one computer peripheral device within a centralized network, comprising:

providing a centralized server within the network communicating with the at least one computer peripheral device among a plurality of computer peripheral devices;

identifying a need to replenish a consumable component for each of the at least one computer peripheral components; and

consolidating the identified need to replenish the consumable component for one or more of the at least one computer peripheral device in the network;

wherein the centralized server includes a consumable re-order program configured to send a consumable re-order notification to a consumables purchaser at a personal computer, the notification including a message that consolidates the need to order consumables for a select group of computer peripheral devices from among the plurality of computer peripheral devices when two or more computer peripheral devices from the select group of computer peripheral devices have the need to replenish consumables.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37 further comprising notifying a network user of the consolidated, identified need by rendering and forwarding instructions to the network user.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the network user is a maintainer interacting with the network at the personal computer.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the network user is an end user interacting with the network at the personal computer having a device status interface.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the network user is a purchaser of consumables interacting with the network at the personal computer.

42. (Original) The method of claim 37 wherein identifying comprises comparing a state of a consumable component with a predefined state, and when the compared identified state corresponds with the predefined state, generating an order request for the consumable for submission to a provider of the consumable via a communication link.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42 wherein the communication link comprises the Internet.

44. (Original) The method of claim 37 wherein identifying a need comprises receiving a warning notification from a computer peripheral device that the computer peripheral device is down or is about to go down.